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Fruit Varieties In Ohio, II

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OHIO
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
Wooster, Ohio

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Fruit Varieties In Ohio, II

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This bulletin is the second of a series that purports to record the behavior of fruit varieties that have been under test in the trial grounds of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. Some are conspicuous and worthy of further trial or more extensive planting, while others do not make a favorable impression under our conditions. An effort is made to supplement this information with observations and yield data from elsewhere in the State where the varieties are being grown. This practice serves as a valuable check in arriving at a conclusion regarding the adaptability of a variety to Ohio conditions.

Those described in this bulletin have been planted to some extent in the State and considerable interest has been manifested as to whether they are valuable additions to our list of commercial varieties. While no one of them may replace the standard sorts, some are worthy of wider planting and others should be planted in a limited way only, as stated in the text.

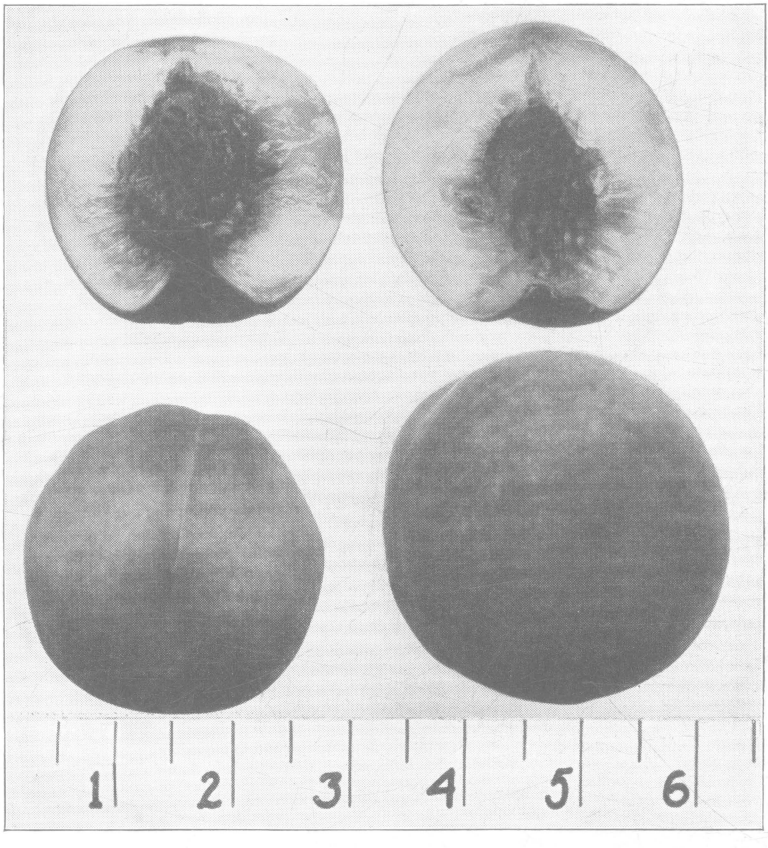
WILMA PEACH

The Wilma peach has attracted attention in recent years, largely because of its season of ripening. Just as the Elberta season is nearly over the Wilma begins to ripen so that there is a little overlapping of these two varieties, which serves, in effect, to lengthen the Elberta season by several days.

This variety was originated by W. C. Rofkar, Catawba Island, Ohio, from a pit of an Elberta. The first budding was done in 1911, and it was introduced by the Cole Nursery Company, Painesville, Ohio about 1915.

The trees are more sturdy, of a denser type of growth, and more upright than Elberta. The leaves are larger and darker green than its female parent. However, the trees, as grown in the region of Lake Erie, are somewhat less hardy than Elberta. Both fruit buds and branches show signs of tenderness if the winter is at all severe. This fact will limit its planting to some extent in that region, altho even there it may prove to be sufficiently hardy to be profitable.

It will prove better adapted somewhat farther south or to regions of more equitable climate. The Wilma has more color than Elberta but it is of a rather dull brick red, that is not quite so attractive as more brightly colored varieties. It is sweeter, of better quality, and the flesh is finer grained than that of Elberta.



Wilma Peach

The fruits usually will not average as large as those of Elberta, altho there is not a great difference and when the trees are not carrying a heavy crop there may be no difference. The following figures, furnished by Mr. W. C. Yule from his total run of these two varieties thru the packing house, indicate the size of fruit produced in his orchard within a few miles of the place of origin.

WILMA AND ELBERTA COMPARED BY PERCENTAGE OF GRADES

	Fancy	AA	A	B	Total crop
	Pct.	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Bu.*
		1925			
Elberta	5	33	49	11	2160
Wilma	1	15	56	29	592
		1926			
Elberta	44	38	14	1	2471
Wilma	51	37	10		314

Fancy 2¼ in. up, AA 2 to 2¼ in., A 1¾ to 2 in., B 1½ to 1¾ in.

Tree vigorous, upright, dense, medium in size, fairly hardy, productive. Leaves large, dark green, dropping early. Glands reniform. Flowers large, pink, blossoms about same time as Elberta. Fruit ripens immediately after Elberta; large to above, roundish-oval, prominently ridged, with unequal halves; color yellow, mottled, blushed or nearly covered with dark, brick red; moderately pubescent; flesh yellow, juicy, tender, sweet; quality good. Stone medium in size or slightly above; free.

SALBERTA PEACH

This variety has come to attention in Ohio during the last half dozen years and is being planted to some extent commercially thru the State. Like the Wilma it has received consideration largely because of its season of ripening. Coming into the market about two weeks after Elberta and between Lemon Free and Salwey, it fits into a niche of the peach season not occupied by any prominent variety in this State.

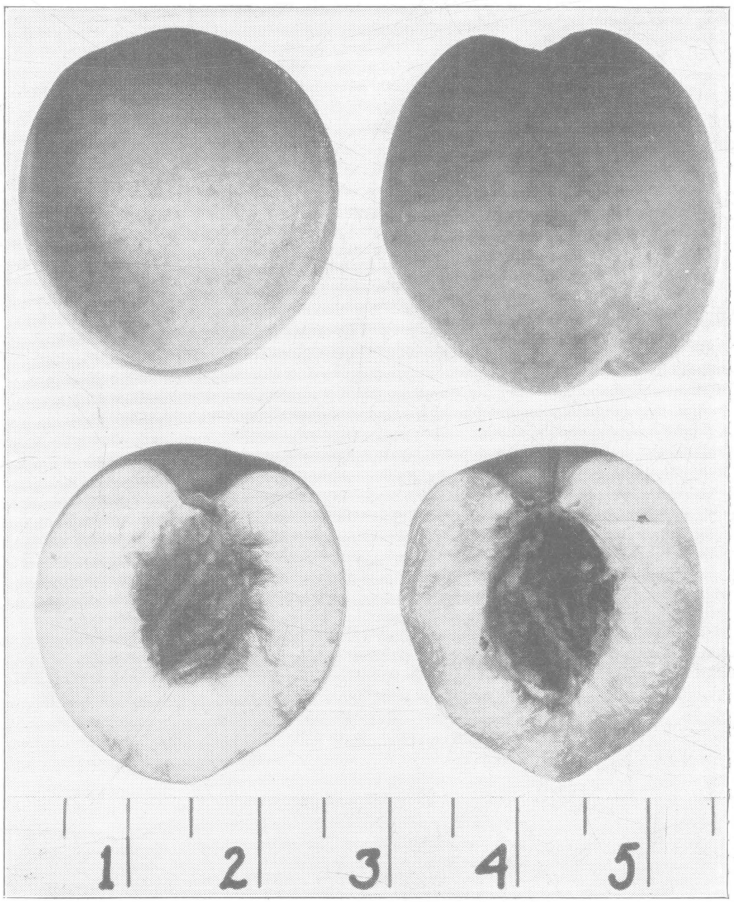
This is also a seedling raised by Mr. W. C. Rofkar of Catawba Island, Ohio. It was grown from a pit of Elberta taken from an isolated tree of that variety which stood beside a Salwey tree, the branches of which overhung the Elberta tree. Because the new variety partook of the characters of both of its supposed parents the name "Salberta" was coined for it. According to the originator it first fruited about a year later than the Wilma. The first trees for distribution were budded by the Fremont Nursery Company, Fremont, Ohio, and most of the 5000 original buddings were sold thruout Danbury and Catawba Island.

The trees are similar to Elberta in hardiness, the buds being slightly less hardy in a test winter, but more hardy than Wilma. The fruit is a yellow freestone that tends to cling in a wet season. It is similar in quality to Elberta but a little more acid. It rates as large in size as Elberta among the growers, altho the following figures indicate that it is somewhat smaller. These figures were

furnished by Mr. V. H. Davis of Catawba Island from his total run of these varieties thru the packing house. No record of the number of trees of each was obtained.

SALBERTA AND ELBERTA COMPARED BY PERCENT OF VARIOUS GRADES

	Fancy	AA	A	B	C	Total crop
	Pct.	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Bu.*
		1925				
Elberta	1	32	50	7	8	7128
Salberta		19	65	14	..	328
		1926				
Elberta	48	33	9	9	8	8916
Salberta	30	46	7	..	1	328



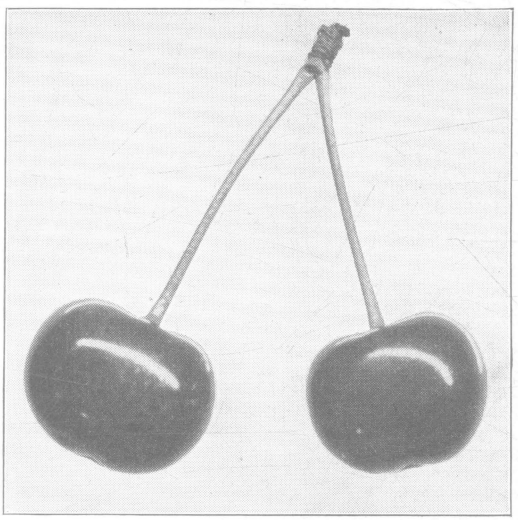
Salberta Peach

In general this variety cannot be recommended as yet for extensive commercial planting. The quality is not quite so high as is needed in a new variety for general planting and its tendency to cling in some seasons is not in its favor.

Tree vigorous, upright, spreading. Fairly hardy, very productive. Leaves large, dropping late, glands reniform. Flowers medium, of Elberta type. Fruit ripens about two weeks later than Elberta; large, oblong oval, shallow suture, deepened at apex; color yellow, blushed, attractive; pubescence medium; flesh yellow, juicy, tender, slightly acid; quality good. Stone medium or above in size, oval; usually free.

BRASSINGTON CHERRY

Brassington, a variety of the Duke or hybrid class, has been under observation in the orchard of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and elsewhere for a number of years and seems to be a very promising cherry for local market purposes. The season of ripening, yielding ability, size and attractiveness of fruit make the variety particularly worthy of consideration.



Brassington Cherry

It follows Early Richmond and precedes Montmorency by a few days in date of ripening and thus tends to fill a gap between these two varieties. The fruit is attractive, of relatively large size, and pleasantly subacid in flavor. In several sections of the State where

Brassington is grown the fruit has sold at a very good price and there is a brisk demand for it. Judging from the demand, the variety seems to be quite suitable for the various culinary purposes for which cherries are used in the home.

It is probable that Brassington will yield higher when grown in an orchard of several varieties than when planted alone or separated by considerable distances from other cherry varieties.

The variety was found growing wild in a farmer's pasture lot in the vicinity of Detroit, Michigan, by S. W. Call. Its parentage is unknown. Propagation of Brassington was begun by Call's Nurseries, Perry, Ohio, about 20 years ago.

Tree and fruit characters of Brassington for the most part are intermediate between sweet and sour cherries.

Tree upright, dense, vasiform, reasonably hardy, very productive. Leaves broad, obovate, apex abrupt, tip short, groove in petiole narrow; serrations wide, shallow; petiolar glands medium size, appressed. Bloom slightly earlier than Early Richmond and somewhat more susceptible to injury from low temperatures.

Fruit averages ¾ to 1 inch in diameter, attractive, round, light red color, juicy, subacid, pleasant flavor; a faint reddish tinge permeates the yellow flesh; when fully ripe the variety is characterized by watery areas showing thru the skin. The fruit is somewhat susceptible to cracking, particularly when subjected to uneven conditions of moisture. The fruit ripens evenly, is borne in clusters close together, and has long stems that separate readily from their points of attachment.

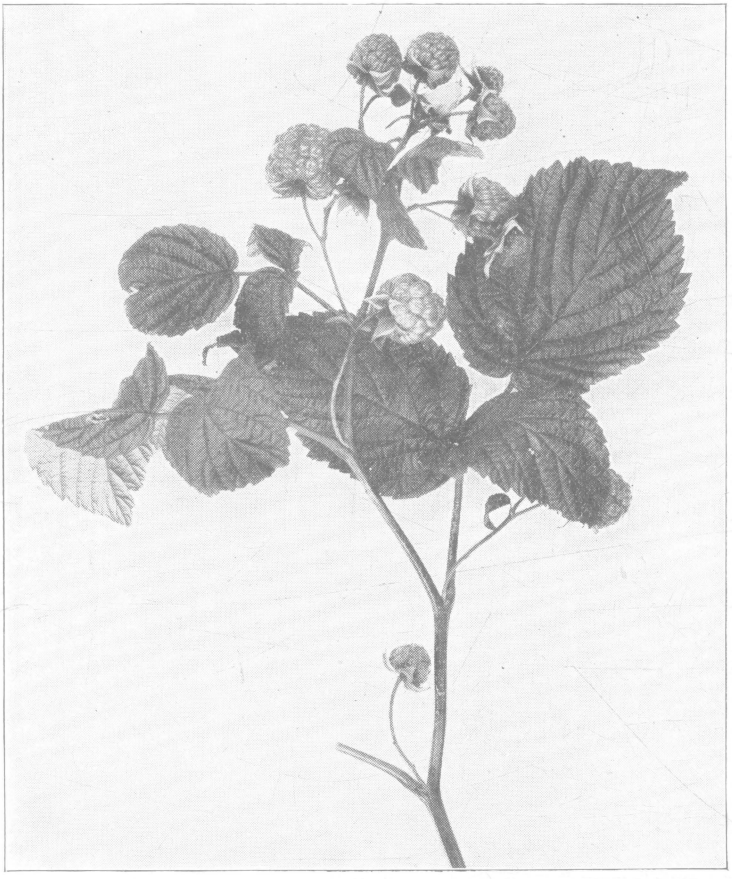
LATHAM RED RASPBERRY

Latham, a relatively new red raspberry, has been under test at Wooster for several years and appears to be of great promise for Ohio.

It has shown considerable tolerance of diseases. Like most varieties, however, it is susceptible to the dreaded virus diseases, which are not controlled by spraying. Clean, healthy stock is necessary for best results and efforts are being made to build up a supply of high quality stock, as free from diseases as possible. More progress has been made along this line with Latham than with other red varieties.

Latham is probably not quite as sweet as Cuthbert, but is of good quality. Its hardiness, productivity, size, vigor, and firmness give it the rank of a leading red variety. There are indications that it is a good commercial canning variety.

Latham originated from a cross of King X London, made at the Minnesota State Fruit Breeding Farm in 1908. For a number of years it was distributed for trial as Minnesota No. 4, and is still so listed in some nursery catalogs. In 1920 it was named in honor of A. W. Latham, who for twenty-nine years was secretary of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society.



Latham Red Raspberry

Plants exceptionally hardy, vigorous, stocky, upright, very productive, strong plant producers; canes tall, reddish in color, strongly glaucous. Foliage dark green; leaves relatively thick and leathery.

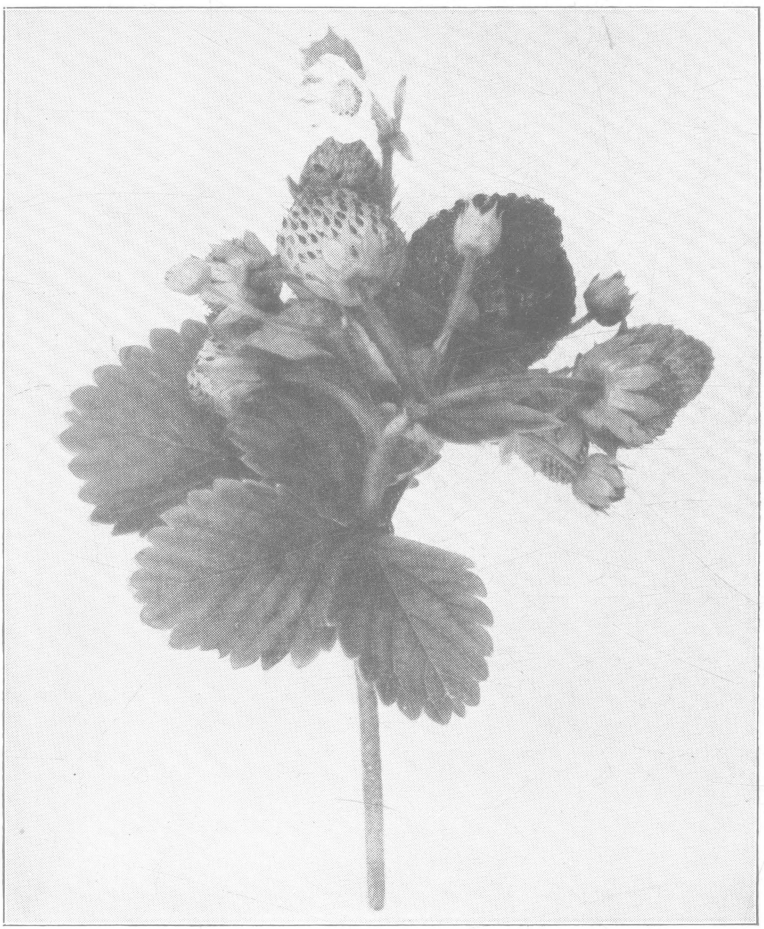
Fruit large, broad, round, attractive, bright colored, firm, moderately sweet. Ripens in midseason. Fruit is picked over a long season and frequently is found in the fall on vigorous new shoots.

MASTODON STRAWBERRY

Mastodon is a new strawberry that is attracting considerable attention at the present time. It is of the "everbearing" type producing crops in the spring and thruout the fall months.

In the last two seasons, Mastodon has proved superior to Progressive, Champion, and other everbearing varieties under test, as a plant maker, in health and appearance of plants, in yielding ability, and in size of fruit. While everbearing strawberries are generally poor plant makers, the behavior of Mastodon in this respect has been encouraging.

As grown at Wooster, the fruit of Mastodon is not as sweet nor as uniform in size as could be desired. It is fairly good in qual-



Mastodon Strawberry

ity but is not as sweet as Progressive. The fruit when well formed is large for an everbearing sort. Often the berries do not develop properly and are undersized and misshapen. The berry is firm. The blossoms are perfect; cross-pollination is not required, altho misshapen berries often result from the lack of adequate fertilization.

On the whole, Mastodon compares favorably with other everbearing varieties for home use.

Mastodon is said to have originated some ten years ago with Mr. George Voer, Peru, Indiana, as the result of a cross between Superb and Kellogg's Prize.

The plants of Mastodon, like other everbearing varieties, bear fruit the same season they are planted. Plants set out at the Station in May 1926 began to bear early in August and berries were picked 2 or 3 times a week until the middle of November. The total yield from a 12-plant row (18 feet) was 5½ quarts for the summer and fall season.

Plants set in the spring of 1925, fruited in the summer and fall of that year, and again bore fruit in the spring of 1926. The following data from a 12-plant row show the yield of Mastodon in the spring of 1926 in comparison with four other everbearing and two June-bearing varieties under similar conditions.

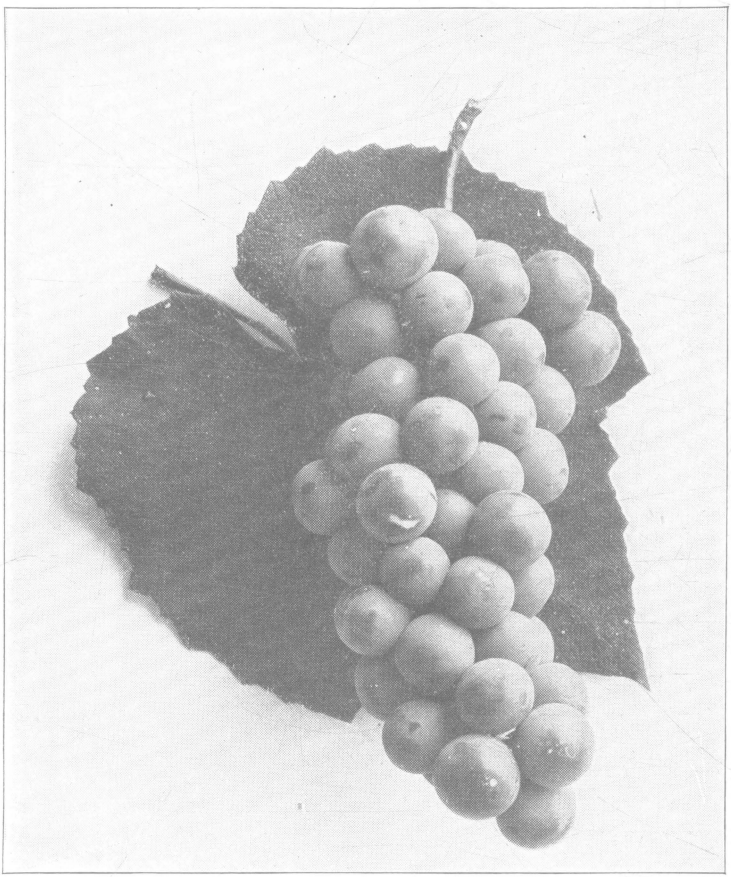
SPRING CROP OF MASTODON AND SIX OTHER VARIETIES COMPARED

	Yield in quarts from 12 plants (18 foot row)												
Variety	June 14	16	18	21	23	26	29	July 3	5	8	10	12	Total
Everbearing Varieties													
Mastodon	..	..	0.2	0.4	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	0.7	0.2	0.1	9.4
Progressive	0.2	.2	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	.1	..	..	..	..	1.1
Miller	..	..	..	.2	.2	.6	.5	.8	.7	..	.1	..	3.1
Champion	.1	..	.4	.3	.2	.2	.2	.1	..	..	..	..	1.5
Buckeye King	..	.1	.1	.1	.1	..	.2	.2	..	..	..	..	0.8
June Bearing Varieties													
Howard 17 (Premier)	.2	.3	..	3.0	2.2	4.0	4.8	3.0	..	1.0	.2	.1	18.8
Gibson	..	..	..	.1	1.0	2.0	5.2	4.2	3.5	.4	.5	.1	17.0

LUCILE GRAPE

The Lucile grape, among the more than 100 varieties in the vienyard of the Experiment Station, is noteworthy for its vigor and productiveness. In 1927, following a season of heavy production, a late, wet fall, and a winter in which there was considerable injury not only in the Station vineyard but thruout the grape growing regions of the State as well, Lucile came thru these trying conditions better than most standard varieties. Its hardiness, the adaptability of the vine to various types of soils, and its season of ripening are factors indicating that Lucile may succeed in certain localities of the State where well-known varieties are not thrifty and productive.

The fruit is dull dark red. Altho vine characters of Lucile are probably as good if not better than most well-known varieties, its foxy or musky flavor, and rather pulpy, seedy fruit handicap the variety in finding favor with commercial growers. Some people, however, do not dislike a foxy flavor in grapes, and where such is the case, Lucile has a place as a red grape for home use, or even for limited commercial growing.



Lucile Grape

Lucile is probably a seedling of Wyoming and originated with Mr. J. A. Putnam, Fredonia, New York. It was introduced in 1899 by Mr. Lewis Roesch (West Hill Nurseries), Fredonia, New York.

Two vines received in 1912 from West Hill Nurseries have given the following results:

Year	Date full bloom	Date picked	Total yield from 2 vines	Average per vine
			Pounds	*Pounds*
1922	June 12	Sept. 16	57.0	28.5
1923	June 14	Sept. 19	26.5	13.3
1924	June 22	Oct. 7	40.0	20.0
1925	June 10	Sept. 15	33.0	16.5
1926	June 20	Oct. 13	52.0	26.0
Average of five years				20.9

In 1922 Lucile was picked two days earlier than Concord, in 1923 three days, in 1924 eleven days, in 1925 three days, and 1926 seven days. As a rule Lucile blooms a day or so earlier than Concord. It is evident that Lucile is a good consistent yielder.

Vine very vigorous, hardy, healthy, very productive. Canes long, medium thick, light brown color. Shoots lightly to heavily pubescent, glandular. Tendrils continuous.

Unfolding leaves intermediate between deep pink and a trace of pinkness. Leaves usually not lobed, above medium size, medium thick; lower surface whitish to bronze green. Petiolar sinus narrow; basal sinus obscure; lateral sinus absent or notched. Teeth quite shallow.

Stamens upright; self-fertile.

Fruit ripens a few days earlier than Concord. Cluster above medium length; cylindrical, compact, seldom double-shouldered. Peduncle large, medium to long. Pedicel short. Brush brownish. Berries medium to above in size, roundish, dull dark red color, firm, adhering strongly. Skin medium thick, sometimes thin, rather astringent covered with rather thin bloom. Flesh pulpy, tough, stringy, juicy. Seeds do not separate readily from pulp, small, medium short, and broad. Quality fair to good, quite foxy, unpleasantly musky when over-ripe.

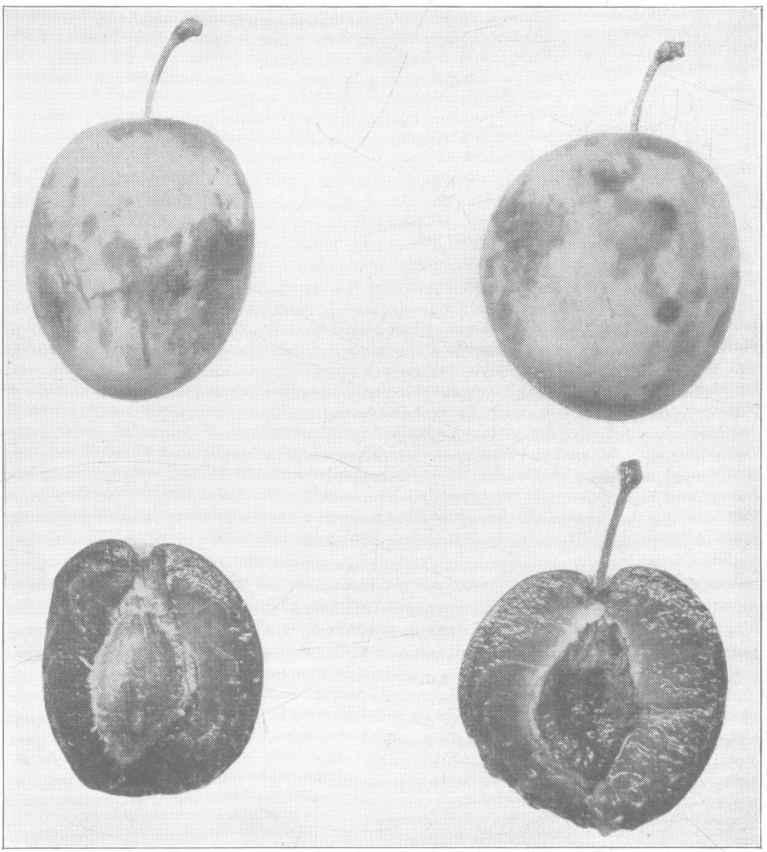
TRAGEDY PLUM

There is some desire by Ohio growers for an early blue plum of good quality. Tragedy seems worthy of trial because of its earliness, attractive blue color, and good flavor.

Tragedy is of good quality for fresh use. It does not keep its shape when canned as well as many other varieties, but its flavor makes it acceptable for culinary purposes.

The variety originated previous to 1880 with O. R. Runyon near Courtland, Sacramento County, California. Its parentage is not definitely known, but German Prune is supposed to be one of the parents and Duane Purple the other. The somewhat peculiar name "Tragedy" is said to have been given to the plum because of an event of tragical nature that occurred in the section where the variety originated.

Four trees of Tragedy are growing in the orchard of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. Two of these were obtained in 1917 from a nursery in California and the other two from a different nursery in the same state in 1919.



Tragedy Plum

The following data are for a tree planted in 1917:

BLOOMING AND PICKING DATES AND YIELD OF TRAGEDY PLUM

Year	First bloom	Full bloom	Picked	Yield in pecks
1922	April 12	April 15	Aug. 18	0.5
1923	April 29	May 2	Aug. 23	1.5
1924	May 3	May 6	Aug. 24	2.0
1925	April 18	April 21	Aug. 18	4.0
1926	May 7	May 8	Aug. 25	7.0
Average 5 years	April 26	April 28	Aug. 22	

Tree upright, spreading, medium thrifty, moderately productive; shoots heavily pubescent; blooms fairly early.

Fruit attractive, blue or purplish black color, overlain with a fairly heavy bloom, medium size, swollen somewhat on suture side; flesh greenish yellow, juicy, meaty, good quality; stone fairly large, semi-cling to cling; stem set in rather deep cavity; season early.

IMPERIAL EPINEUSE PLUM

Imperial Epineuse has been in fruiting for only a short time at Wooster. Its remarkably high quality, however, gives it an outstanding place among the plum varieties in the Station orchard. The behavior of the variety in other eastern states and at Wooster seems to indicate that it is a desirable plum for home orchards and worthy of trial for commercial purposes in Ohio.

Its reddish purple color and semi-clingstone tendency may react unfavorably to the variety in localities where the demand is for dark blue, freestone plums. On the other hand, its color may be an asset either in preference to, or for marketing with, other varieties. Its attractive appearance, medium to large size, and exceptionally good quality are features in its flavor. Some growers in the State have seemed to find that the growth habits, particularly of young trees, have not been all that could be desired.

Imperial Epineuse sets a fair crop of fruit with self-pollination but apparently will give highest yields when cross-pollinated.

Imperial Epineuse originated about 1870 near Clairac, France. It was formerly called the Clairac Mammoth. Its parentage is unknown. It was brought first to America in 1883, being imported to California at that date.

Tree vigorous, spreading, productive; blooms medium late; shoots lightly to moderately pubescent.

Fruit obovate shape, reddish-purple color, above medium size, attractive appearance, greenish yellow flesh, remarkably sweet, stone semi-clinging.